

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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R 121815Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8788

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

US MISSION GENEVA 552

USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, ETRD, US, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: EC GSP TOBACCO QUOTA

REF: (A) STATE 168133, (B) EC BRUSSELS 6385

1. EMBOFF JULY 12 DISCUSSED PROPOSED EC GSP TOBACCO QUOTA WITH
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP FUXA (OFFICE DIRECTOR,
EC/GATT AFFAIRS) AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (MFT) REP SIMEONE
(DIRECTOR, EC/GATT AFFAIRS), LEAVING AIDE MEMOIRE
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SUMMARIZING MAJOR POINTS REFTEL (A). POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE

(REF A, PARA 4) DESCRIBED ORALLY.

2. CITING COMPLEXITY OF ISSUE, BOTH FUXA AND SIMEONE RESERVED FORMAL COMMENT PENDING CONSULTATION WITH OTHER GOI MINISTRIES. FUXA OBSERVED THAT TOBACCO ISSUED BETWEEN ITALY AND EC, AND EC AND US, LONG CHARACTERIZED BY MARKED DIFFERENCES AND NOTED THAT GOI POSITIONS WERE MORE ORIENTED TO ITALIAN ROLE AS TOBACCO EXPORTER. IN THIS CONNECTION, FUXA NOTED THAT NEITHER EC MEASURE NOR US PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE WOULD HELP ITALIAN TOBACCO EXPORTERS. FUXA INDICATED THAT GOI WOULD PROBABLY OPPOSE PROPOSED EC MEASURE BUT NOT RPT NOT STRONGLY. IN FUXA'S OPINION, GOI'S STRONG OPPOSITION TO TOBACCO IN EC GSP TROPICAL PRODUCTS OFFER HAD EXHAUSTED MUCH OF ITALY'S POLITICAL CAPITAL IN TOBACCO AREA. SOMEONE MADE NO RPT NO SUBSTANTIVE COMMENT.

3. FUXA AND SIMEONE PROMISED TO INFORM EMBASSY OF RESULTS OF GOI EXAMINATION OF US POSITION.

4. COMMENT: PROPOSED ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION EXPOSES ITALIAN TOBACCO PRODUCERS TO INCREASED LDC COMPETITION AS OF COURSE DOES EC COMMISSION'S PROPOSED AMENDMENT. ACCORDINGLY, ITALY' INTERESTS LIE IN REJECTING COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL ENTIRELY. HOWEVER, ITALY -- PROBABLY FOR REASONS CITED BY FUXA--IS UNLIKELY, IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, TO GO TO THE MAT IN OPPOSITION. BEAUDRY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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